

ABSTRACT

Methods and devices for immobilizing single polymeric molecules are disclosed. A method for isolating a single polymeric molecule comprises contacting polymeric molecules with agents under conditions that permit formation of agent-polymeric molecule complexes, said polymeric molecules immobilized at positions on a substrate separated by at least about two times the length of the polymeric molecules, said agents comprising a binding partner having binding affinity for a label of the polymeric molecules, and releasing at least one of the agent-polymeric molecule complexes from the substrate to isolate a single polymeric molecule.

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